

FOCUS



Newsletter of the Mayslake Nature Study and Photography Club
Hosted by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
Visit our website at www.naturecameraclub.com

Highlights

October 6

Bob Benson:
Optimizing Images for
Competition and Display

November 3

Chris Smith
Out of Chicago

November 17

Competition

December 1

Christmas Party
Swap Meet

“Optimizing Images for Competition and Display”

Bob Benson

What does it take to bring an image up from good quality to what wins in competitions? Adjustment techniques will be shown that can help. Sometimes it takes more than general adjustments, and attention must be paid to details. Such procedures can help to add a point or two. Examples will be demonstrated.

Bob Benson is an award-winning photographer who is a leader in CACCA and offers many presentation topics for clubs.

Competition

November 17, 2014

January 19, 2015

March 16, 2015

Competition Report

The first competition of the Club year was held on September 15.

A total of 25 print images and 55 digital images were submitted for judging. The judges were Tom Richardson from Mayslake and Ted Donahue and Sharon Zingery from Fort Dearborn. Thank you to our judges.

Results are as follows:

Class A Prints

Awards:

Green Orchid	Sue Gajda
Hummingbird at Flower	Marcia Nye

Honorable Mentions:

Mid Summer's Bouquet	Bill Dixon
King of the Jungle	Chuck Klingsporn

The average score of all images submitted: 23.23

Class B Prints

Awards:

Nest Building Time	Steve Ornberg
Bow Lake	Steve Ornberg

Honorable Mentions:

Great Egret at Rest	Noriko Buckles
Cathedral Rocks	Steve Ornberg

The average score of all images submitted: 21.91

Class A Digital

Awards:

Foxtail Agave	Sue Gajda
Merganser Trio	Greg Hull
Herbert Lake Sunrise	Steve Ornberg
Woodland Watcher	Gary Saunders

Honorable Mentions:

Gray Cheeked Thrush	Greg Hull
Scarlet Tanager	Greg Hull
Warbler	John Janunas
Ebony Jewel Wing	Marcia Nye
Insect on White Trillium	Rich Witkiewicz

The average score of all images submitted: 22.15

Class B Digital

Awards:

Skunk Cabbage Detail	Bill Dixon
Feed Me Now	Fran Piepenbrink

Honorable Mentions:

Vernal Expectation	Bill Dixon
Affectionate Greeting	Fran Piepenbrink

The average score off all images submitted: 22.17

Class C Digital

Awards:

Shagbark Hickory Bud	Diane Hamernik
Tufted Titmouse in Snow	Beth Olin
Antelope Canyon	Charlie Zhang
Peace	Charlie Zhang

Honorable Mentions:

I See Dinner	Steve Bartos
Texas Clouds	Bill Ludemann
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	Bill Ludemann

The average score of all images submitted: 22.24

Congratulations to the members who received awards and honorable mentions. Winning digital images are posted on the Club website. Selected images and prints will be submitted in CACCA inter-club competitions.

Thank you to all members who submitted images. I hope that everyone who attended the competition night found the evening worthwhile. We did change the format a bit allowing time at the end of the evening for critiques of images selected by attendees. This format provides a learning opportunity for members to ask questions individual images.

The next competition night is November 17. The deadline for submitting digital images is Sunday November 9. Please check the website for instructions and forms. Also, remember that submitting make-up images is only allowed for those members who act as judges. If you did not submit images for the September competition, you can still be eligible for year-end honors by submitting a total of 8 images in the next three competitions. Don't miss out on an opportunity to have an outside evaluation of your images.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me, Sue Gajda, at segnet1025@yahoo.com.

Exhibits

Janice Henry

We have been presented with an opportunity, but have a short time to take advantage of it.

Currently I am requesting images for "Colors of Nature" for our space starting in November. I still need some images for that show which will be hung in early November.

The opportunity is that Mayslake has offered us a Group Show in the living-room and dining-room at Mayslake (where we have had shows before) that will run from November 11-December 10. That show will have a closing reception on December 10 from 6-8 PM.

The Group Show will not have a theme, if you have image(s) that you would like to have in this show, send me an email to jnhenr@att.net with the title(s), size(s), whether you would like to sell your image(s) and the price(s). I will need this information by Saturday, October 18th so I can make labels.

As usual, you will need to attach a wire to the back of the image and wrap the sharp ends with tape (blue painters tape works great) and a label with your name, the title and price (if you are selling the image) to the back.

The drop off is on Saturday, November 8th from 9-11 AM. If you can't make the drop off then, I can arrange to have them dropped off in the office at the Mayslake facility during their regular business hours 9-4 on Monday-Friday.

The Mayslake facility is also a home to a theater group so this is an excellent opportunity to have more people viewing your work.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

About Mayslake Programs

A key part of Mayslake Nature Study and Photography Club are the Monday night programs. Historically, as the Club name indicates, programs are presented on both nature and photography. Recent examples are member Jack Shouba's nature presentation on flowers and member Fred Drury's photography presentation on Lightroom. The intent is to have approximately equal number of nature and photography programs.

Some Mondays are more social, such as the Annual Meeting with favorite photos of 2013 in April and the Holiday Party last December with the Glennie Nature Photos and swap meet. One well received new format used in February and also last year was a "Round Table" with several members presenting on three different photography topics.

Programs from January 2013 through February of next year will have covered photography 17 times and nature 10 times, somewhat emphasizing photography subjects.

Historically the Club has had a vice president for nature and another for photography, with each responsible for arranging programs in their area. Without a volunteer stepping up for the VP of photography the last couple of years, there has only been one individual responsible for arranging programs in both areas. This is one of the reasons the Board decided to try going to programs only on the first Monday of the month, with competitions on the third Mondays of selected months.

Several people have offered program suggestions over the last couple of years, including members of a "Program Committee" that existed for a year or so. Now the Board members are most active in suggesting programs, although any member can suggest a program. The most helpful suggestions include a topic, speaker, and contact information. Knowledge of the speaker's skills as a presenter is also helpful to assure that information is presented in an interesting fashion.

One of the challenges of selecting programs is finding ones that appeal to the majority of members. A topic that is only for beginning photographers may not appeal to the many experienced photographers in the Club, while a program directed to advanced photographers may be confusing for novices. One option the Club has offered for several years are introductory and intermediate digital photography classes offered periodically by Club member and teacher Fred Drury. This provides an opportunity for less experienced members to get a handle on some of the basics.

Please contact me with your program suggestions. Tom Richardson, 630-272-4351, rtom.richardson@gmail.com.



Tom Soltis

Taltree Arboretum & Gardens September 7, 2014

The day was not too hot and not too cold, but unfortunately too many mosquitoes!! In spite of that, Mayslakers ever up for a challenge, headed to Indiana and Taltree Arboretum. With 360-acres of woodlands, wetlands, prairies and gardens, there were a lot of photo opportunities.

A highlight of the outing, and the Arboretum, is the intricate formal Railway Garden. This garden features model steam trains in a miniature conifer and woody plant landscape. The garden tells the story of early 19th century U.S. railroad history featuring scenes of the Civil War, westward expansion and the American Industrial Revolution.

Afterwards we all headed nearby for good food and conversation at Baker's Square. Some even continued the trip with a visit to the Candy Store right down the road.

There were two Challenges for this outing. The first was a photo challenge to take advantage of the wonderful light for "back-lit" images. The second was a post processing Challenge to just have fun with your images and do whatever you want.

Be sure to visit the Website to see all the images from this fun outing.



The Cannonball©
Fran Piepenbrink



Sandy Karasek



Streaming Light Flower
JoAnn Barnes



Noriko Buckles

Congratulations to Mayslake

